



NEWS RELEASE



WISCONSIN DISTRICT OFFICE

U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Release Date: October 22, 2002

Contact: Jan Wipijewski, (414) 297-1096

Release Number: 03-01

Email: janice.wipijewski@sba.gov

WISCONSIN SBA ANNOUNCES 2002 TIBBETTS AWARD WINNER

MILWAUKEE – Wisconsin's 2002 Tibbetts Award winner **nPoint, Inc.**, located in Madison, WI, is one of seventy-one firms, organizations and individuals affiliated with or participating in the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program who received the prestigious Tibbetts award during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on October 2, 2002.

The awards are presented annually by the SBA to small businesses working in research and development to recognize them as "models of excellence" in high technology. The award winners were selected based on the economic impact of the technological innovation, overall business achievement, and demonstration of effective collaborations, among other accomplishments.

nPoint, Inc. focuses on devices that are able to provide positioning and motion with a precision of less than one nanometer, as well as unique probes for nanometer-level dimensional probing and critical metrology of structures in the size domain of micrometers or less. nPoint, Inc. nanopositioning products are a basic enabling technology for a range of research, manufacturing, and test applications in the semiconductor, data storage, biotechnology, and nanotechnology industries. These ultra-precision positioners and motion controllers are key components of larger instrumentation, such as critical-dimension measuring tools, profilometers, atomic force microscopes, optical microscopes, and robots—tools used in manufacturing and test operations that involve ultra-precision machining, inspecting, and testing of parts; characterization of the surface properties of all types of materials; or the manipulation of molecules or biomaterials.

- More -

The products nPoint, Inc. has developed with SBIR funding represent a paradigm shift in device capability—making possible advances that were not thought possible just a few years ago. Nanopositioning and control is a fundamental enabling technology that is critical to the development of new products and applications. The SBIR program is widely acknowledged as producing some of the government’s most highly rated research. SBIR is a competitive three-phase program that allows small businesses to propose innovative ideas to meet the specific research and development needs of the federal government. The program also promotes commercialization of the innovations derived from the federal research effort. Federal grants and contracts for the research and development proposals are awarded on a competitive basis.

Wisconsin SBA District Director Eric Ness said, “We are extremely fortunate to have Max Legally, PhD (founder of nPoint, Inc.), and nPoint, Inc. located in Wisconsin and having a significant impact in the State’s high-tech small business sector.” “We join in congratulating them on being Wisconsin’s newest Tibbetts award winner.”

The SBA helps small businesses each year with access to capital and credit through its financial assistance programs, as well as providing technical training and business start-up and expansion counseling, disaster loans for businesses and homeowners, and federal contracting and procurement assistance. For more information about the SBA go to www.sba.gov or call the SBA’s Answer Desk at 1-800 U-ASK-SBA, or TDD 704-344-6640.

###